

**Re Item III.**

Due to the excessively broad nature of claim 1, only a limited search was carried out on the matter of claims 1-9 and 13. The matter thus searched was limited to the application described in claim 14 (magnetic medium) and the matter of the method of fabrication (claims 17-20). The International Search Opinion applies only to the claims thus wholly or partially searched: 1-9 and 13 (partial), 14-16 (fully searched) and 17-20 (fully searched).

Claims 10-12 are not dealt with in this report, having not been searched on the grounds of excessively broad scope (11, 12) or obscurity (10).

**Re Item V.**

- 1 The following documents are referred to in this communication:

D1 : PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1999, no. 13, 30 November 1999  
(1999-11-30) & JP 11 224422 A (NIPPON TELEGR & TELEPH CORP  
&lt;NTT>; NTT ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY C), 17 August 1999 (1999-  
08-17)  
D2 : US 6 139 713 A (TAMAMURA TOSHIKI ET AL) 31 October 2000 (2000-  
10-31)

- 2 Document D1 discloses:

The matter of claims 1-9, 13 and 14 in the particular embodiment of a magnetic disk.

**2.1 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1**

As can be seen from the above, document D1 discloses in combination all the features defined in independent claim 1. Hence the subject-matter of this claim is not new (Article 33(2) PCT).

**2.2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 13**

As can be seen from the above, document D1 discloses in combination all the features defined in independent claim 13. Hence the subject-matter of this claim is not new (Article 33(2) PCT).

**2.3 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 14**

As can be seen from the above, document D1 discloses in combination all the features defined in independent claim 14. Hence the subject-matter of this claim is not new (Article 33(2) PCT).

**3 Document D2 discloses:**

a method of manufacturing a structure as disclosed in claims 1-9.

**3.1 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 17**

As can be seen from the above, document D2 discloses in combination all the features defined in independent claim 17. Hence the subject-matter of this claim is not new (Article 33(2) PCT).

**4 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-9, 15, 16, 18-20**

Dependent claims 2-9, 15, 16, 18-20 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT).